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NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis applauds passage of major economic development legislation

July 19, 2024 . 12:56 PM — 2 min read

State Sen. Jason Lewis and the Massachusetts Senate unanimously passed a comprehensive economic development bill. FILE PHOTO

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis:

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State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to unanimously pass a comprehensive economic development bill intended to extend Massachusetts' global leadership in life sciences and biotech, climate technology, and other sectors of the economy.

An act relative to strengthening Massachusetts' economic leadership will promote the growth of new and existing industries, support workforce development and talent retention, and modernize various economic development programs. The support extends to small businesses, communities, and cultural development, ensuring that main streets across the Commonwealth benefit from the economic boost.

"Promoting economic development especially in high growth sectors creates new business and job opportunities and strengthens our communities," said Lewis. "I'm proud that our state Legislature in partnership with Gov. Healey is able to work on a bipartisan basis to make Massachusetts even more competitive and attractive for both businesses and workers."

Key provisions of this economic development legislation include:

• Maintaining Massachusetts' global life sciences leadership by authorizing up to $225 million over five years for the Life Sciences Breakthrough Fund, and adding health equity, biosecurity, digital health, and artificial intelligence to the mission of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center.

• Encouraging the growth of climate tech companies in Massachusetts by authorizing up to $200 million for the Clean Energy Investment Fund and a further $200 million for the Massachusetts Offshore Wind Industry Investment Trust Fund. Additional incentives include a climate tech tax credit, a climate tech jobs credit, and a climate tech research credit.

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• Promoting local economic development by authorizing $400 million for the MassWorks infrastructure program; $90 million to support the redevelopment of underutilized, blighted, or abandoned buildings; $50 million for the Cultural Facilities Grant Fund; $150 million for capital grants for public libraries; $100 million for other local economic development grants to cities and towns; and more.

• Accelerating AI and advanced manufacturing by authorizing up to $115 million for the Massachusetts Tech Hub to establish key industry consortia across the Commonwealth; $100 million for the Applied AI Hub program; and more.

• Retaining talented college graduates by authorizing up to $85 million for the Massachusetts Education Financing Authority to improve access to affordable higher education opportunities, and promoting internships for students and recent graduates through the employer internship tax credit.

• Supporting small businesses by authorizing up to $35 million for grants to Community Development Financial Institutions to help disadvantaged and underserved businesses; $25 million for MassVentures for small business technology grants to help early-stage companies commercialize new technologies; and more.

The bill also includes a provision championed by Lewis to create a pathway to licensure for foreign-trained physicians. This initiative is designed to address the shortage of healthcare professionals and improve patient access to high quality care.

During debate on the Senate floor, Lewis was also successful in increasing the capital funding authorization for Zoo New England (which includes the Stone Zoo in Stoneham) from $10 million to $15 million.

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A Conference Committee will now be appointed to reconcile differences between the different versions of the economic development bills passed by the Senate and House of Representatives, before a final version of the legislation is sent to Healey for her signature.

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Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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